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Garcia supports legislation to increase highway maintenance
Senate passes bills to amend current Highway Advertising Act

LANSING – State Senator Valde Garcia, R-Howell, announced today the Senate passed a package of legislation intended to increase the maintenance of Michigan roadways.

Senate Bill 568 allows the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) to issue vegetation-management permits for the removal of vegetation or other growth that obstructs motorists' vision of a sign or billboard. This legislation would be in effect until December 31, 2008.

SB 911 would amend current law, which allows rights-of-ways to be exempt from the application process to receive permission to remove vegetation.

"This package of legislation would promote the appearance of roadways and give businesses opportune exposure in the 22nd District," Garcia said. "I am in support of doing everything possible to make the district a friendly environment for businesses."

SB 567 prohibits MDOT from issuing any new highway advertising sign or billboard permits until December 31, 2008 unless a new advertisement takes the place of a previously existing advertisement. Garcia did not support SB 567.

"While I am in favor of cleaning up our roadways, I did not support Senate Bill 567," Garcia said. "With the economy in the current state that it is, I do not feel we should limit businesses' ability to promote themselves, and the regulations of SB 567 would have done that. A business's means of advertising should be guided by its own judgment in order to increase its revenue."

This package of legislation now moves to the House for first reading.

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